



Interview by Ahmad Suaedy with Jamhari, Jakarta, 14 January 2015

MA & PhD, Anthropology, ANU, 1993-1999



[00:00:19]	Born in a Muhammadiyah village in Klaten, in 1966. His father graduated from a Catholic school and, with a friend, established a school in the village and became a primary school teacher. After finishing primary school in the village, Jamhari went to a modern pesantren in Magelang for his secondary schooling. He studied there for six years and then taught there for a year. The pesantren did not award certificates so Institute of Islamic Studies (IAIN), in Jakarta, was the only place he could go for tertiary studies.	Family background; Childhood; Early education; Undergraduate education
[00:03:30]	[Discussion about IAIN Jakarta being the only place that accepted candidates without certificates and his father's belief in knowledge being more important than qualifications.] He had six younger brothers and his parents couldn't afford to send him to university so, on his father's advice, he went home and became a teacher, a young kyai, in their village.	Family background; Early career
[00:07:36]	He asked for donations of books and magazines and set up a library in the mosque in his village, and a study group. <i>Tempo</i> agreed to donate magazines if he collected them so he went to Jakarta and, while there, he happened to sit the entrance exam for IAIN. So after a year teaching in his village he went to the communications department at IAIN. Many of his friends from the pesantren were there too. [Story about his friend letting him know he had passed the exam.]	Early career; Community service; Undergraduate education
[00:11:21]	His parents could only give him a little money for the first semester so he had to support himself by tutoring and reading the Koran to children of wealthy families. He was at IAIN from 1985 to 1990. When he finished he didn't think he would be able to be a	Family background; Work experience; Early career

	public servant because he didn't have a high school certificate so he wrote to the Editor-in-Chief of <i>Jakarta Post</i> and became a freelance journalist in Jogjakarta for three months.	
[00:15:17]	Then he returned to Jakarta when Professor Aqib Suminto, the dean of communications at IAIN, invited him to teach there. It was quite a new faculty and the pay was very low, sometimes the dean donated money to him from his own wages. Three months later the Ministry of Religious Affairs announced a program to send new graduates overseas to train as lecturers. He applied, Professor Harun Nasution interviewed him and he was accepted. [Comments about how charismatic and intimidating Prof. Nasution was and the questions he asked about studying in Australia.]	Early career; Scholarship opportunity; Studying overseas
[00:20:52]	He studied English for six months at IAIN then three months at Indonesia Australia Language Foundation (IALF) and went to the Australian National University (ANU) in 1993, with an ADS scholarship. He had applied and been accepted to study in the UK but went to Australia because he would have two years to do his master's rather than only one. He chose the ANU because he had heard about the program there from the coordinator of the English language program who had studied there under James Fox.	Pre-departure training; Scholarship experience; Scholarship opportunity; Existing connection with Australia
[00:25:11]	It was his first trip overseas and on a plane. [Story about his grandmother giving him a big suitcase and rice to take to Australia and refusing help to carry it up the stairs at the station in Sydney because he thought the person would ask him for money.]	Living overseas; Arriving in Australia
[00:29:53]	It was a Sunday in January and an international volunteer met him in Canberra and took him to the student dormitory. He couldn't believe how quiet and empty Canberra was. He missed dinner but some Chinese Indonesians in the dorm gave him some noodles. He stayed there, in Fenner Hall, for a year because he liked the dormitory atmosphere – postgraduate students were together on the eighth and ninth floors, and he met a lot of international students. [Story about many Asian students wanting to move after a suicide in room 13 but feeling OK after a young Australian woman stayed overnight there.]	Arriving in Australia; Living in Australia; Socialising in Australia
[00:34:17]	Most of the residents were international, about five per cent were Australian. He concentrated on his studies but went to parties and gatherings and joined tennis, soccer and badminton clubs. He joined the Indonesian association after he became a PhD student. When the Indonesian Association of Muslim Intellectuals (ICMI) was formed in 1998 he joined in Canberra and became the first secretary for ICMI Australia. The chair was the Imam of the Canberra	Socialising in Australia; Indonesian community in Australia; Religious community in Australia

	mosque, Ahmed Hadi.	
[00:36:44]	The pre-departure training helped him adjust to studying in Australia. Also, his supervisor, Professor James Fox, knew a lot about Indonesia and helped him feel at home. [Discussion about his research into the different response to Islam in Jogja and Solo, doing field work in Klaten and changing his topic after spending three months in a graveyard in Klaten.]	Pre-departure training; Supervisor-student relationship; Studying in Australia
[00:41:32]	He had many Australian friends that he made in the dorm and from classes, is still in touch with them. [Story about being accepted as a lecturer even though he doesn't have a high school certificate.] He did his master's from 1993 to 1995 and then continued with a PhD, also with an AIDAB scholarship, without having to wait two years and reapply. He finished his PhD in 1999.	Friendships; Connections with Australia; Studying in Australia; Scholarship opportunities
[00:46:03]	He was married in 1992, a week before going to Australia. His wife stayed with his family then went to Australia with him after he had finished his fieldwork. His first child was born in Klaten when he was doing fieldwork for his PhD and his second child was born in Canberra. After finishing his PhD he went back to IAIN Jakarta and worked in the rector's office after spending three months getting his family settled. In 2000 he became director until 2007 then became vice rector from 2006 to 2014. Now he does research.	Family; Living in Australia; Child born in Australia; Returning to Indonesia; Leadership
[00:52:20]	He keeps in touch with people in Australia. He has an education program with Professor Tim Lindsey and regular contact with Greg Barton and Greg Fealy. He often goes to Australia.	Connections with Australia; Professional networks; Returning to Australia
[00:53:21]	END	